

EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT

1. Acknowledgment is made of the amendment filed January 21, 2010, in which: claims 1-11 are cancelled; claims 12, 14, and 16 are amended; claims 18-35 are withdrawn from consideration; and the rejections of the claims are traversed. Claims 12-35 are currently pending, of which claims 18-35 are withdrawn, and an Office action on the merits follows
2. An examiner's amendment to the record appears below. Should the changes and/or additions be unacceptable to applicant, an amendment may be filed as provided by 37 CFR 1.312. To ensure consideration of such an amendment, it **MUST** be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee.

Authorization for this examiner's amendment was given in a telephone interview with Eric J. Nuss on April 28, 2010.

The application has been amended as follows:

- a. Claims 18-35, withdrawn without prejudice or disclaimer in the Response to Restriction Requirement filed January 17, 2006, are cancelled.
- b. Claim 13 is amended to recite, "[t]he method according to claim ~~13~~ 12,..." so as to correctly indicate its dependence upon independent claim 12.

Allowable Subject Matter

3. Claims 12-17 are allowed.
4. The following is an examiner's statement of reasons for allowance:

As to claim 12, the prior art of record fails to teach or suggest a method of driving a display comprising:

receiving an input signal having a first period corresponding to a *number of lines in the display*;

generating a detection reference signal to *compare periods of the input signal and a pre-synchronizing signal*;

determining whether the first period is less than a first reference period;

outputting a signal of a first state to a *signal presence comparator only if the first period is less than the first reference period*;

outputting the signal of the first state to a *signal absence comparator only if the first period is beyond a range of the first reference period*;

determining the presence of the input signal if the number of pulses of the signal of the first state outputted to the signal presence comparator is larger than a predetermined plural number during an input interval of the detection reference signal, being different from the signal of the first state, wherein each of the pulses is to be of the first state and continuously has same values; and

determining the absence of the input signal if the number of pulses of the signal of the first state outputted to the signal absence comparator is smaller than a predetermined plural number during an input interval of the detection reference signal, being different from the signal of the first state, wherein each of the pulses is to be of the first state and continuously has same values, as claimed (emphasis added).

As to claim 14, the prior art of record fails to teach or suggest a method of driving a display comprising:

receiving an input signal having a first period corresponding to a *number of lines in the display*;

generating a detection reference signal to *compare periods of the input signal and a pro- synchronizing signal*;

determining whether the first period is greater than a first reference period;

outputting a signal of a first state to a *signal presence comparator only if the first period is greater than the first reference period*;

outputting the signal of the first state to a *signal absence comparator only if the first period is beyond a range of the first reference period*;

determining the presence of the input signal if the number of pulses of the signal of the first state outputted to the signal presence comparator is larger than a predetermined plural number during an input interval of the detection reference signal, being different from the signal of the first state, wherein each of the pulses is to be of the first state and continuously has same values; and

determining the absence of the input signal if the number of pulses of the signal of the first state outputted to the signal absence comparator is smaller than a predetermined plural number during an input interval of the detection reference signal, being different from the signal of the first state, wherein each of the pulses is to be of the first state and continuously has same values, as claimed (emphasis added).

As to claim 16, the prior art of record fails to teach or suggest a method of driving a display comprising:

receiving an input signal having a first period corresponding to a *number of lines in the display*;

generating a detection reference signal to *compare periods of the input signal and a pre- synchronizing signal*;

determining whether the first period is less than a first reference period and greater than a second reference period;

outputting a signal of a first state to a *signal presence comparator only if the first period is less than the first reference period and greater than the second reference period*;

outputting the signal of the first state to a *signal absence comparator only if the first period is beyond a range of the first reference period and the second reference period;*

determining the presence of the input signal if the number of pulses of the signal of the first state outputted to the signal presence comparator is larger than a predetermined plural number during an input interval of the detection reference signal, being different from the signal of the first state, wherein each of the pulses is to be of the first state and continuously has same values; and

determining the absence of the input signal if the number of pulses of the signal of the first state outputted to the signal absence comparator is smaller than a predetermined plural number during an input interval of the detection reference signal, being different from the signal of the first state, wherein each of the pulses is to be of the first state and continuously has same values, as claimed (emphasis added).

Any comments considered necessary by applicant must be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee and, to avoid processing delays, should preferably accompany the issue fee. Such submissions should be clearly labeled “Comments on Statement of Reasons for Allowance.”

Conclusion

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Alexander S. Beck whose telephone number is (571) 272-7765. The examiner can normally be reached on M-F, 8AM-5PM.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner’s supervisor, Sumati Lefkowitz can be reached on (571) 272-3638. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.

/Alexander S. Beck/
Primary Examiner, Art Unit 2629

Dated: April 25, 2010